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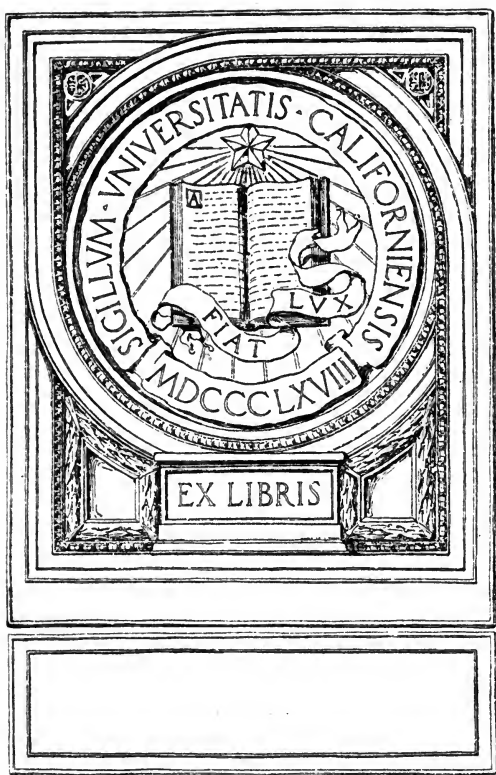
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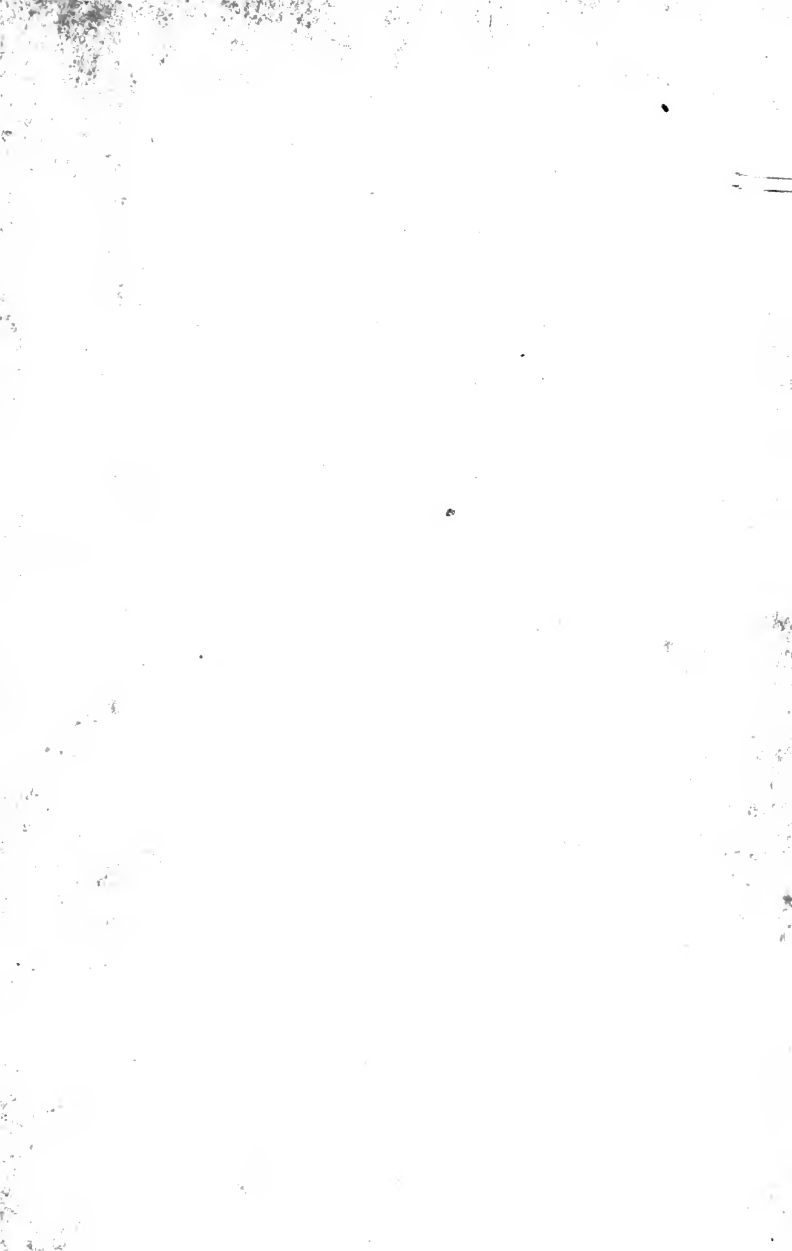
# THE STORY OF A GOOD WOMAN

DAVID STARR JORDAN



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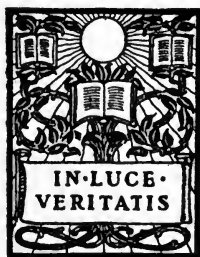


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# THE STORY OF A GOOD WOMAN JANE LATHROP STANFORD

BY  
DAVID STARR JORDAN

PRESIDENT OF  
LELAND STANFORD JR. UNIVERSITY



BOSTON  
AMERICAN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION  
1912

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TO THE  
AMERICAN

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## PREFATORY NOTE



THE substance of this little book was given as a memorial address on "Founders' Day" at Stanford University, March the ninth, 1909. It was published in the *Popular Science Monthly* for August, 1909, and it is here reprinted with a few verbal changes. It is not in any sense a character study nor an appreciation. It contains no reference to personal peculiarities whether of strength or weakness, except as these may bear on the one great purpose that filled the later years of the life of Mrs. Stanford.

Jane Lathrop Stanford, the daughter of Dyer Lathrop and Jane Ann Shields, was born in Albany, New York, on August 25, 1828. She died in Honolulu,

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Hawaii, of a rupture of the coronary artery on February 28, 1905. On September 30, 1850, she was married to Leland Stanford, formerly of Albany, New York, then of Port Washington, Wisconsin. Soon after their marriage, they made their home in California, at first at Michigan Bluff in Placer County, later in Sacramento and San Francisco, with a summer residence on the estate known as Palo Alto, which became later the campus of Leland Stanford Junior University. Leland Stanford was born in Watervliet, New York, on March 9, 1824, and died at Palo Alto on June 20, 1893. He was "war governor" of California in the sixties and later United States Senator. With his townsmen of Sacramento, Collis P. Huntington, Mark Hopkins and Charles Crocker, he constructed the first trans-continental railway, the Central Pacific, from Sacra-

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mento to Ogden. Later from this was built up the whole Southern Pacific System, the entire stock of which until about the year 1900 was held jointly by these men and by their heirs or estates. The only son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanford, Leland Stanford, Jr., was born on May 14, 1868, at Sacramento, and died of heart failure arising from "Roman Fever" in Florence, on March 13, 1884. The young man was highly studious and especially interested in museums and their contents. The Stanfords planned to build for him a large museum at Palo Alto, and the plans for such a building, having the motif of the Franciscan Mission of San Juan Capistrano, were drawn by the great architect, H. H. Richardson of Boston.

After the death of the boy and more or less under the inspiration of educational ideals derived from their friend, Louis

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Agassiz, the Stanfords decided on the larger plan of the University to be dedicated to the memory of their son, to be built on the site set apart on the Palo Alto estate for the museum, the buildings to retain the original motif of the former. "The children of California shall be my children" was the expression of Mr. Stanford's purpose.

With this simple explanation of the conditions existing at the opening of the University on October 1, 1891, the rest of this little book may speak for itself.

D. S. J.

**T**HERE stands a castle in the heart of  
Spain,  
Builded of stone, as if to stand for aye,  
With tile-roof red against the azure sky,  
Where skies are bluest, in the heart of Spain.  
Castle so stately men build not again;  
'Neath its broad arches, in its patio fair,  
And through its cloisters, open everywhere,  
I wander as I will, in sun or rain.  
Its inmost secret unto me is known,  
For mine the castle is. Nor mine alone,—  
'T is thine, dear heart, to have and hold alway;  
'T is all the world's as well as mine and thine;  
For whoso enters its broad gate shall say:  
"I dwell within this castle: it is mine."



## THE STORY OF A GOOD WOMAN



WISH in these pages to tell the story of a noble life, of one of the bravest, wisest, most patient, most courageous and most devout of all the women who have ever lived. I want to give to those of the university to whom its founders are now but a memory some lasting picture of the woman who saved the university which she and her honored husband founded in faith and hope, and who thus made possible all the good to humanity which may abide in its future. I shall try to make my story as impersonal as I can, as though I spoke not for myself but for all of you men and women of Stanford, those that

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are and those that are to be. I shall speak with all gratitude towards the many who have helped in the work of saving the great fund involved, for education, learning and research, and with all charity towards those whose interests or whose conscientious conviction ranged them on the other side. If I am successful, you will see more clearly than ever before the lone, sad figure of the mother of the university, strong in her trust in God and in her loyalty to her husband's purposes, happy only in the belief that in carrying out their joint plans for training the youth of California in virtue and usefulness she was acting the part which in God's providence had been assigned to her.

The university called "Leland Stanford Junior" was founded on Love, in a sense which is true of no other. Its corner-stone was love—love of a boy extended to the love of the children of humanity.



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It was continued through love—the love of a noble woman for her husband; the faith of both in love's ideals—and as an embodiment of the power of love Stanford University stands today.

It is fitting that these statements should not stand as mere words. I wish that in your hearts they may become realities. Not many of you as students or as alumni have seen Mrs. Stanford. The last of the freshmen classes which she knew took its departure in 1909. Still fewer have known Leland Stanford, broad-minded, stout-hearted, shrewd, kindly and full of hope, a man of action ripened into a philosopher. Stanford University has now reached its twenty-second year. During the first two years of its history it was the hopeful experiment of Leland Stanford. The next seven years its history was recorded in the heart-throbs of his wife. The years that

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follow with all their vicissitudes have been years of calmness and certainty, for the final outcome is no longer open to question.

It is my purpose in these pages to tell a little of the story of the six dark years, the years from eighteen ninety-three to eighteen ninety-nine, those days in which the future of a university hung by a single thread, but that thread "the greatest thing in the world," the love of a good woman. If for an instant in all these years this good woman had wavered in her purposes, if for a moment she had yielded to fear or even to the pressure of worldly wisdom, this story could not have been told. The story would have been finished before it began. The strain, the agony, was all hers, and hers the final victory. And so any account of these years must take the form of eulogy. "Eulogy," in its old Greek meaning, is "speaking well," and

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my every word must be a word of praise. It is proper, too, that as the President of Stanford through all these trying years I should speak these words, and even that I should give this history from my own standpoint, because there were few besides myself who knew the facts in those days. Some of these facts we can well afford to forget. For the rest, the facts in issue will appear only as needed for the background, before which we may see the figure of Mrs. Stanford.

I first saw the Governor and Mrs. Stanford at Bloomington, Indiana, in March, 1891. At that time, Mr. Stanford, under the advice of Andrew D. White, late the President of Cornell, asked me to come to California to take charge of the new institution which he was soon to open. He told me the story of their son, of their buried hopes, of their days and nights of sorrow, and of how he had once awakened

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from a troubled night with these words on his lips: "The children of California shall be my children." He told me the extent of his property and of his purposes in its use. He hoped to build a university of the highest order, one which should give the best of teaching in all its departments, one which should be the center of invention and research, giving to each student the secret of success in life. No cost was to be spared, no pains to be avoided, in bringing this university to the highest possible effectiveness. In all this Mrs. Stanford was most deeply interested, supporting his purposes, guarding his strength, alert at every point and always in the fullest sympathy.

Mr. Stanford explained that thus far only buildings and land, the Palo Alto farm and the great farms at Vina and Gridley, had been given, but that practically the whole of the common estate

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would go in time to the university, when the founders had passed away. If he should himself survive, the gift would be his and hers jointly, though the final giving would be left to him. If the wife should survive, the property would be hers, and in her hands would lie the final joy of completion. Mr. Stanford gave his reason for not turning over the property at once: He would not deprive his wife of a controlling part in the future. It was not his wish that she should sit idly by while others should create the university. His wife was his equal partner as well as his closest friend. So long as she lived it was his wish that in the building of the university she should take an equal part. This attitude of chivalry in all this needs this word of explanation, for it shaped the whole future history of the university endowment. It was the source of many of the embarrassments which fol-

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lowed and, perhaps as well, of the final success.

The university was opened on the first day of October, 1891, a clear, bright, golden, California day, typical of California October and full of good omen, as all days in California are likely to be. There were on the opening day 465 students, with only 15 instructors, and the first duty of the president was to telegraph for more teachers, laying tribute on many institutions in the east and in the west.

Two years followed, with their varied adventures which I need not now relate. It was on the twenty-second day of June, 1893, that the university community was startled by the sudden death of Leland Stanford.

It is not my purpose now to praise the founder of the university. Others have done this and his name belongs to the world. One single incident at his funeral

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is firmly fixed in my memory. The clergyman, Horatio Stebbins, in his stately fashion, told a story of the Greeks doing honor to a dead hero; then, turning to the pall-bearers, stalwart railway men, he said: "Gentle up your strength a little, for 'tis a man ye bear." A man, in all high senses, in the noblest of words, a man! was Leland Stanford.

After the founder's death the estate fell into the hands of the courts. The will was in probate, the debts of the estate had to be paid, the various ramifications of business had to be disentangled, and meanwhile came on the fierce panic of 1893. All university matters stopped for the summer. Salaries could not be paid until it was found out by the courts by whom, to whom and from whom salaries were due. All incomes from business ceased. The great corporations had no earnings; the common man suffered with them.

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After Mr. Stanford's death, Mrs. Stanford kept to her rooms for a week or two. She had much to plan and much to consider. From every point of view of worldly wisdom it was clearly her duty to close the university until the estate was settled and in her hands, its debts paid and the panic over. Her own fortune was the estate itself. Outside of a collection of rare jewels given by her husband she had practically nothing of her own, save the community estate. This could not be hers until the payment of all debts and legacies had been completed. These debts and legacies amounted as a whole to eight millions of dollars. In normal times there was hardly money enough in California to pay this amount; but these were not normal times and there was no money in California to pay anything to anybody.

After these two weeks, Mrs. Stanford



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called me to her house to say that the die was cast. She was going ahead with the university. She would turn over to us whatever money she could get. We must come down to bed rock on expenses, but with the help of the Lord and the memory of her husband the university must go ahead and develop its character in the hope of better times ahead.

It was no easy task to do this, as one incident will show. There could be no regularity in the payment of salaries. All salary contracts had to be drawn up with this understanding. If a deficit occurred at the end of the year, the president must make it good. In the eyes of the law the university professors were Mrs. Stanford's personal servants. They had no other status, and the university had as such no separate or official existence. As personal servants it was finally arranged that Mrs. Stanford should receive from

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the estate a special allowance for their maintenance. This allowance must pay their salaries, while a registration tax of twenty dollars per year on each student had to cover all other expenses. Tuition had been free, and it has remained so except for this incidental fee, since raised to \$30 per year. Even these two sources of income were not accessible at first. The two great farms of Palo Alto and Vina, each a principality in itself, run as experiment stations in horse-breeding and in viticulture, were centers of loss, neither of them up to that time having yielded a dollar of income.

A single incident will make this condition vivid.

At one time in August, 1893, Mrs. Stanford received from Judge Coffey's court the sum of \$500, to be paid to her personal servants. It was paid in a bag of twenty-five twenty-dollar gold pieces.

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Mrs. Stanford called me in and said her servants could wait; there might be some professors in need, and I might divide the money among them. I put the money under my pillow and did not sleep that night. Money was too great a rarity with us then. Next morning, on Sunday, I set out to give ten professors fifty dollars apiece. I found not one who could give change for a twenty-dollar gold piece, and so I divided the sum into ten parts, five of forty dollars and five of sixty dollars. The same afternoon, after I had gone the rounds, \$13,000 was brought down from the city for us servants as back pay for our services already given. This sum was distributed. After this Mrs. Stanford sent word that as we had some money now perhaps we could spare her the \$500. I drew a check for the sum against a long-vanished bank account, and covered the amount in the morning

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with the aid of some of my associates.

The incident again will explain why for six years the professors were paid by personal checks of the president and why these checks were not always issued regularly, nor for the full amounts. We were all struggling together to do the best we could with whatever might come to us. There was no certainty ahead. Most of the property was of such a character that it could not be divided, but must go in blocks of millions if it went at all, and no one had millions at his disposal for investment anywhere. The estate held a one-fourth interest in the Southern Pacific System and of all its many ramifications. Kept together it could maintain itself with its representatives on the directorate, but if any division whatever, it would be easy to "freeze out" the small holder.

I pass by many minor incidents of struggle and economy. The farms had to

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be abruptly closed, the employees all paid and dismissed, no easy task. Then they had to be forced to yield an income. This required wise management and rigid economy at the same time, but for all this Mrs. Stanford proved adequate. She learned her lessons as she went along and took a wholesome pleasure in the Spartan simplicity of her life. If all else failed, she had still the jewels to fall back upon; and she steadily refused to consider the advice (almost unanimous) of her counsel to close the university or most of its departments until some more favorable time. In 1895 she invited the pioneer class, then graduating, to a reception in her city home, one reason being that it was the last class that could ever graduate. We had nothing to run on, save the precarious servant allowance then fixed at \$12,500 per month and liable to be cut to nothing at any day. Our expenses in 1893 had

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been nearly \$18,000 per month. Sometimes we could sell a few horses from the stock farm, but it was never clear that the stock farm belonged to the university and not to the Stanford estate, and every dollar we secured for use in this way piled up the possibilities of litigation. All these days were brightened by the steady support of her friends and advisers, Samuel F. Leib, Timothy Hopkins, Francis E. Spencer and Russell Wilson, as well as by the sympathy of her faithful secretary, Miss Bertha Berner. Mr. Hopkins furnished the Seaside Laboratory and the Library of Biology and paid unasked many minor expenses, his left hand not taking receipts for what his right hand was doing. No one can tell how much the university owes to these men, who in the darkest days planned to make the future possible. Very much, too, the university owed to the fraternal devotion of Mrs.

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Stanford's brother, Mr. Charles G. Lathrop, who cared with sympathetic hand for the scanty receipts of these harassed days. The warm sympathy of Thomas Welton Stanford of Melbourne, Leland Stanford's younger brother, came from across the seas. His gift of the Library Building came in time to be most welcome.

At last, adjustment of one kind after another being made, there was a glimpse of daylight, when we were thrust without warning into a still darker night.

The United States government brought suit for fifteen millions for the purpose of tying up everything in the Stanford estate until the debts of the Central Pacific Railway should be paid. It was not claimed that the university owed anything, or that the Stanford estate owed anything, or that the railway owed anything on which payment was due. As a matter of fact, when the time came the

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Southern Pacific Company paid in full every dollar it owed the government as soon as it became due, and with full interest. There was never any reason to suppose that it would not do so and never any reason to suppose that it could afford not to pay this debt, for the power to control the line from Ogden to San Francisco, called the Central Pacific, was in itself an enormous asset, worth the value of this debt. Failure to pay this debt would have meant loss of control of the most valuable single factor in any continental railroad system.

The claim of the United States was secured by a second mortgage on the Central Pacific. It was currently supposed that the railway would be sold to satisfy the first mortgage and that it would realize no more than this sum, leaving, as Mr. Huntington cynically expressed it, nothing but "two streaks of rust and the right



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of way.” The government proposed, by a sort of injunction, to hold up the Stanford property to be finally seized, in case the Southern Pacific Railway System should at some future time be found in debt. There was no warrant in law or in good policy for this suit. One United States judge spoke of it as “the crime of the century.” It is not easy to work out the motives which inspired it, political or personal, or whatever they may have been. Fortunately, now, it makes no difference what these motives were, or by whom the act was suggested.

For reasons which I need not discuss, the owners of the three remaining estates (Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Crocker were no longer living) and their successors were unable to give any assistance in the struggle for the endowment of the university. It was necessary for Mrs. Stanford to make the fight alone and at her own cost.

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It should be said that none of the present owners or managers of the Southern Pacific were in any way concerned in this matter. The entire ownership and control of the railway company was changed at the end of the century. It is also fair to say that the business man's point of view was wholly adverse to the continuance of university work. It seemed impossible to save the estate and the university together. All receipts of the railroads (there were no profits) were needed to continue its operations, and to spend current receipts in the maintenance of a university seemed to others interested in the stability of the railway system both wasteful and dangerous. A way out was to "stop the circus," to use an expression then for the first time applied to a university. On the other hand, to Mrs. Stanford the estate existed solely for the benefit of the university. To save the estate on these terms

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was to her like throwing over the passengers to lighten the ship. And as matters turned out, the university, the estate and the railway were all saved alike.

Perhaps we can get at the nature of this government suit from a couple of letters written at the time. I find on the university files a letter sent in November, 1894, to President Eliot of Harvard. In this letter I said:

“I recognize of course that public sentiment can not be formed without a basis of knowledge. The peculiar conditions in which this university finds itself are not easily stated to the public. There are internal reasons why we can not well take the country into confidence. Some of these reasons are connected with the relations of the Stanford heirs. Others arise from our relations to our future partner, in whose power we are, until the government suit is disposed of, that is, until the settlement of the estate.

“The grounds of the government suit, in

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brief, are these. The Central Pacific Railroad was regarded as an impossibility by most of the people of California. Its builders exhausted their funds and their credit and tried in vain to get help from every quarter, even after receiving large donations of land then worthless. The U. S. government came to their aid, whether wisely or not, . . . it does not matter at present. The road when finished bore a first mortgage, covering all that it is now worth. The government took a second mortgage upon it as security for the payment of the debt due for the bonds it had advanced in aid of the corporation. . . .

“There is a law in California by which the original stockholders in a corporation are personally liable for its debts, if suit be begun within three years after the organization of the corporation. This law was intended to check ‘wild-cat’ speculations.

“It is claimed that under this law the estates of Stanford and Huntington are still liable for the amount of the second mortgage, to come due in a few years. It is claimed that the three-years’ limitation does not hold

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against the government. This question of liability had not been raised when the estates of the two remaining partners were distributed, and its enforcement would be possible as against the Stanford estate alone, as Mr. Huntington, being alive, can withdraw his interests to Mexico, should the suit against Mr. Stanford be successful. Meanwhile, by the way, the question is tested for him at the expense of the Stanford estate, the railroad interests of which are in his hands as president of the road. . . .

“It is believed by all jurists whom we have consulted that the government has no case. The limitation of three years, being an integral part of the statute in question, must hold against the government as against others. Furthermore, the aid extended by the government was not a debt incurred in business of the corporation.

“However this may be, the courts will decide justly. Our anxiety is that they may decide speedily.

“As to the various criticisms which you mention, permit me a word. In all personal mat-

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ters Mr. Stanford was perfectly truthful and just. Except in matters pertaining to the division of the earnings and bonds of the Central Pacific and the fact that its affairs were not made public, I have never heard his railroad career seriously criticised. In California he had a very wide following among the best men, men who liked and respected him, not on account of his wealth and railroad connections, but rather in spite of them. In all the railroad war through which this state is passing, no responsible person has uttered a slur against Mr. Stanford or against the university.

“It is not true that Mr. Stanford pretended to give the university a dollar more than he gave. He gave the three farms, formerly valued at \$5,000,000, in these times worth much less; all the movable stock upon them, about \$1,000,000 more; the university buildings costing \$1,250,000; and by will \$2,500,000 in cash. It was agreed by Mr. and Mrs. Stanford that each should be the residuary legatee of the other, and that whichever should survive should devote the rest of his or her life and

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estate to the university. The Stanford estate is therefore the university's endowment. Not in law, but in fact, the estate is the university. It was Mr. Stanford's feeling, and I was fully aware of it, that should his wife survive him, she should be free to endow the university and to control it as he had done. No one has ever struggled more loyally to do so than Mrs. Stanford. Since her husband died we have not received a dollar of his money, but the university has gone on without check or hindrance, though at times she has been forced to give up luxuries and to limit her expenses in every conceivable way. As a matter of fact, she has each year given me a personal bond for all she thinks that she can raise from the farms and from her own small personal property. Her devotion to the work is absolute and she is giving her life to it. When she loses, she will die.

"The lands are unsalable only because the deed of gift prohibits their sale. In Mr. Stanford's lifetime they were conducted as parks. When they came into our hands their products fell short by \$10,000 to \$20,000 per month of

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meeting the pay-rolls. This year under Mrs. Stanford's direction they have yielded upwards of \$50,000 above expenses. The sale of colts is a source of revenue, now that the reputation of the Palo Alto stud is made.

"No cash has ever been set aside in advance, for very simple reasons. I could not ask for it. Mr. Stanford was not expecting sudden death, financial panics, nor an attack from the government. He paid in cash all salaries and all bills, placed no limits on me, and on his sudden death left no debts against the university. There are now no debts left against his estate, which is appraised at \$17,000,000, except the government claim which acts as an injunction tying everything up. It is not true that Mr. Stanford tried to 'rear a personal monument by a good use of ill-gotten money.' No one ever gave money in a more generous spirit, and there have not been many great givers who placed so few restrictions on their gifts. Personal vanity does not give without restrictions in its own interest. He claimed that no man in California was the poorer for his wealth, which was true. It never occurred



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to him that it was 'ill-gotten' or needed any apology.

"I know better than any one else, except his wife, can, how genuine Mr. Stanford's interest was. He treated me, and through me, the university, with perfect truthfulness and justice. For my part and that of the faculty, we have tried to make the fund in our possession count every dollar for a dollar to the best advancement of higher education.

"As to the public at large, in time they will judge us by our fruits, if we are allowed to live to bear fruitage."

To a loyal friend of Governor Stanford, Senator Hoar of Massachusetts, I wrote this on June 20, 1894:

"You will pardon me for writing to you to express my very great pleasure and that of Mrs. Stanford in the stand you have taken in defence of Senator Stanford's memory and in the effort you have made toward the protection of the university from the evil effects of prolonged litigation in which its endowment would be at stake.

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“You who knew Senator Stanford well know that the recent attack of Mr. G—— on his motives was without foundation in fact. The feeling of revenge at any real or supposed slight on the part of the legislature in connection with the State University had nothing to do with his actions. He was not a man to cherish that kind of feelings. The sole basis that accusation had was this: Mr. Stanford acted for a few days as a member of the State Board of Regents. He was very much surprised to find that this board ignored the recommendations of the president of the university, and in general were disposed to treat the university chairs as personal ‘spoils.’ This led Mr. Stanford to doubt whether, if he should endow a university for California, it would be wise to place it in the hands of a political board of regents. These conditions in the State Board have now changed for the better. Mr. Stanford always spoke most kindly of the State University. He frequently consulted with its professors and it was a great pleasure for him to know that the new institution has in every way helped the old one. The

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friendly rivalry has been most salutary to both. Instead of 450 college students in one school as in 1890, there are now 1,700 students in the two, besides the professional classes.

“As a matter of fact, Mr. and Mrs. Stanford founded the university with the sole purpose of putting their fortune to the best use of their country. I know Mr. Stanford’s motives in this regard as well as one man can know the motives of another, and I know that no feeling of revenge and no selfish feeling entered into these motives.

“The university has now safely passed every other serious difficulty. Mrs. Stanford has no other purpose in life than that of carrying out every detail of her husband’s purposes. Her devotion has shown itself in maintaining the work of the university unimpaired during this period of hard times, while the estates are in probate and therefore not available for university purposes.

“It would, I believe, be a great national calamity if this great fund were lost to higher education. It would be almost as great a ca-

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lamity if it were exposed to the delay and loss of prolonged litigation.

"I assure you that the great majority of the self-respecting people of California are very grateful to you for what you have done towards the protection of the university endowment."

The story of the passing of the great suit is known to all students of the university, as well as to all friends of higher education. It was brought to trial in San Francisco in the United States District Court, and the university side of the question had the strong support of the great jurist, John Garber. The decision of Judge Ross was against the claim of the government. It was appealed and came before Judges Morrow, Gilbert and Hawley, who again found no merit in the government contention. It was appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States, and here our case seemed hopeless. The

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Supreme Court moves slowly, and our life-blood was ebbing fast. It takes money to run a university, and our money was almost gone. To delay the matter was to destroy us, and no one but ourselves had any interest in pushing along the decision.

Finally Mrs. Stanford went to Washington to appeal to President Cleveland. She told him our story and beseeched him to use his influence for a speedy settlement. Once for all, let us know the future. At last, President Cleveland took her point of view, and through his influence the Stanford case was placed on the calendar of the United States Supreme Court for speedy trial. Joseph Choate, whose name every Stanford man should hold in grateful memory, supplemented the work of John Garber. The case came to trial, and by a unanimous decision, written by Justice Harlan, Stanford University was finally free!

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The students celebrated the victory as college boys can. The United States Postoffice on the campus, a wooden shack long since removed, was painted cardinal red, to its great improvement in appearance. The founder and the president received their ovation. The future of the university was forever assured.

This was the end of the dark days, but not of days trying and difficult. There were still eight millions of dollars to be paid. There was still the uncertainty as to whether Mrs. Stanford could survive to pay it, and the estate must come into her hands before she could give it to the university. She made many attempts to hasten this transfer. At one time, we have the pathetic figure of the good woman going to the Queen's Jubilee in London, going on board the steamer in New York with all her actual possessions, half a million dollars' worth of jewels in a suitcase

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carried in her hand. She hoped to sell these to advantage, when all the world was gathered in London. But the market was not good, and three-fourths of them she brought back to California again.

And this seems the appropriate place for the story of the jewel fund. It is told in an address made at the foundation of the Library Building, and again and finally in a resolution of the Board of Trustees.

On May 15, 1905, I said:

“There was once a man—a real man, vigorous, wealthy and powerful. He loved his wife greatly, for she, wise, loyal, devoted, was worthy of such love. And because among all the crystals in all the world the diamond is the hardest and sparkles the brightest, and because the ruby is most charming, and the emerald gentlest—the man bought gifts of these all for his wife.

“As the years passed a great sorrow came to them; their only child died in the glory of his

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youth. In their loneliness there came to these two the longing to help other children, to use their wealth and power to aid the youth of future generations to better and stronger life. They lived in California and they loved California; and because California loved them, as she loves all her children, this man said, 'The children of California shall be my children.' To make this true in very fact he built for them a beautiful 'Castle in Spain,' with cloisters and towers, and 'red tiled roofs against the azure sky'—for 'skies are bluest in the heart of Spain.' This castle, the Castle of Hope, which they called the university, they dedicated to all who might enter its gates, and it became to them the fulfilment of the dream of years—a dream of love and hope, of faith in God and good will toward men.

"In the course of time the man died. The power he bore vanished; his wealth passed to other hands; the work he had begun seemed likely to fail. But the woman rose from her second great sorrow and set herself bravely to the task of completing the work as her husband had planned it. 'The children of Cali-



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fornia shall be my children'—that thought once spoken could never be unsaid. The doors of the castle once opened could never be closed. To those who helped her in these days she said: 'We may lose the farms, the railways, the bonds, but still the jewels remain. The university can be kept alive by these till the skies clear and the money which was destined for the future shall come into the future's hands. The university shall be kept open. When there is no other way, there are still the jewels.'

"Because there always remained this last resource, the woman never knew defeat. No one can who strives for no selfish end. 'God's errands never fail,' and her errand was one of good will and mercy. And when the days were darkest, the time came when it seemed the jewels must be sold. Across the sea to the great city this sorrowful, heroic woman journeyed alone with the bag of jewels in her hand, that she might sell them to the money changers that flocked to the Queen's Jubilee. Sad, pathetic mission, fruitless in the end, but full of all promise for the future of the university, founded in faith and hope and love—the

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trinity, St. Paul says, of things that abide.

“But the jewels were not sold, save only a few of them, and these served a useful purpose in beginning anew the work of building the university. A tiled roof was placed on the library building in place of a temporary imitation of painted iron. Better times came. The money of the estate, freed from litigation, became available for its destined use. The jewels found their way back to California to be held in reserve against another time of need.

“A noble church was erected—one of the noblest in the land, a fitting part of the beautiful dream castle, the university. It needed to make it perfect the warmth of ornamentation, the glory of the old masters who wrought ‘when art was still religion.’ To this end the jewels were dedicated. It was an appropriate use, but the need again passed. Other resources were found to adorn the church—to fill its windows with beautiful pictures, to spread upon its walls exquisite mosaics like those of St. Mark, rivaling even the precious stones of Venice.

“In the course of time the woman died also.

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She had the satisfaction of seeing the buildings of the university completed, the cherished plans of her husband, to which she had devoted anxious years, fully carried out. Death came to her in a foreign land, but in a message written before her departure to be read at the laying of the corner-stone of the great library she made known the final destiny of the jewels. She directed that they should be sold and their value made a permanent endowment of the library of the university.

“And so the jewels have at least come to be the enduring possession of all the university—of all who may tread these fields or enter these corridors. In the memory of the earlier students they stand for the Quadrangle, whose doors they kept open, and for the adornment of the church, which shall be to all generations of students a source of joy and rest, a refining and uplifting influence. To the students who are to come in future days the message of the jewels will be read in the books they study within these walls, and the waves of their influence spreading out shall touch the uttermost parts of the earth.

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“They say there is a language of precious stones, but I know that they speak in diverse tongues. Some diamonds tell strange tales, but not these diamonds. In the language of the jewels of Stanford may be read the lessons of faith, of hope and good will. They tell how Stanford was founded in love of the things that abide.”

It was resolved by the Board of Trustees on May 29, 1908, as follows:

“WHEREAS, it was a cherished plan of Mrs. Jane L. Stanford that all jewels left by her should be sold after her death, and that the proceeds (estimated by her at more than five hundred thousand dollars) should be invested as a permanent fund, of which the income should be used exclusively for the purchase of books for the Library of the Leland Stanford Junior University; and

“WHEREAS, the pressing financial needs of the university compelled her temporarily to forego said plan, and to sell many of said jewels in her lifetime in order to raise money to maintain the university; and

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“WHEREAS, by communication delivered to this board at its meeting, held February 22, 1905, Mrs. Stanford declared:

“‘In view of the facts and of my interest in the future development of the University Library, I now request the trustees to establish and maintain a library fund, and upon the sale of said jewels, after my departure from this life, I desire that the proceeds therefrom be paid into such fund and be preserved intact, and invested in bonds or real estate as a part of the capital of the endowment, and that the income therefrom be used exclusively for the purchase of books and other publications. I desire that the fund be known and designated as the “Jewel Fund.” I have created and selected a Library Committee of the Board of Trustees, under supervision of which all such purchases should be made.’”

“Now, THEREFORE, in order to carry out said plan of Mrs. Stanford and to establish and maintain an adequate library fund, and to perform the promise made by this board to her, it is

“*Resolved*, that a fund of five hundred thou-

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sand dollars, to be known and designated as the 'Jewel Fund' is hereby created and established, which fund shall be preserved intact, and shall be separately invested and kept invested in bonds or real estate by the Board of Trustees, and the income of said fund shall be used exclusively in the purchase of books and other publications for the Library of the Leland Stanford Junior University, under the supervision and direction of the Library Committee of this Board of Trustees."

It was in these dark days that I was asked by President Cleveland, through Mr. Charles S. Hamlin, to go to Bering Sea to help settle the fur seal disputes.

Before I started, in 1896, Mrs. Stanford said: "Now that our affairs are looking so much better, do you not think that I might afford to bring back my housekeeper?" Her servants then were her secretary, her Chinese cook and an old man, a servant of other days, who served as butler, without salary.

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It was in these days, too, that Mrs. Stanford, going to Washington to settle up the household affairs of the mansion occupied while Mr. Stanford was senator, took four hundred dollars with her, lived in the private car owned by the Governor, attended to the packing of her goods and the rental of her house to a senator from New York, and brought back \$340 of the amount, which she turned over to me, to be used for the university. I have given this and other details private and personal, but full of meaning, as showing her devotion to the university and her utter unselfishness in carrying out the plans made by herself and her husband for the welfare of the men and women of the coming generations of California and of the world. While matters inside the faculty and the details of instruction were left to those supposed to be experts in these lines, for this was her husband's wish, she had al-

ways before her his purposes. "What would Mr. Stanford do under these conditions?" was always her first question; and in almost every instance this question led to a wise decision.

To outside suggestions as to this or that, she used to reply: "I will never concern myself with the religion, the politics or the love affairs of any professor in Stanford University." And this resolution she religiously kept.

With the passing of the government suit, conditions looked brighter. The payment of the eight millions went on very slowly, because the railway holdings could not be broken and must be sold as a whole if at all. The taxes on properties yielding no income became an intolerable burden. Besides, it was apparent that the original enabling act under which the Board of Trustees was organized con-



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tained grave defects, certain to invalidate any actions of this Board if they should undertake to control the funds of the university. For this reason, mainly, the Board of Trustees, until after 1900, existed in name only, Mrs. Stanford being in fact the sole trustee.

In 1899 the railroad holdings were sold, to good advantage as prices, thanks to the good office of a well-known banker whose name I am glad to speak, James Speyer, and the estate at once passed out of debt. Finally, piece by piece, it passed into Mrs. Stanford's hands, and each piece was at once deeded to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees was legalized by a change in the State Constitution. The university was by the same means relieved of part of the burden of its taxes. The changes in the State Constitution were passed by the largest majority

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ever recorded in California. At the earliest possible moment, Mrs. Stanford again and in full transferred the whole estate to the board, reserving for herself a relatively small sum "to play with," as she said, but in fact to give herself occupation and means to carry out in her own way other plans of strengthening the university and of helping mankind. The Board of Trustees was then organized as a working body. Mrs. Stanford became its first actual president, and this history passes over into the bright days of the dawn of the twentieth century.

Mrs. Stanford then left the university for a trip around the world by way of Australia and Ceylon. This was not that she wanted to see the world, or to be absent from her beloved Palo Alto, but that she wished to give to the Board of Trustees absolute freedom in taking up their great responsibilities. She wished them

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to handle the accumulated funds on their own initiative, without suggestion from herself.

The rest of the story can be told by others, for it is an open record. The whole may be summed up in these words of Mrs. Stanford in a letter written to me September 3, 1898:

“Every dollar I can rightfully call mine is sacredly laid on the altar of my love for the university, and thus it ever shall be.”

That all this may seem more real, I venture to quote a few paragraphs from personal letters of Mrs. Stanford written in the dark days from 1893 to 1899.

On November 24, 1895, Mrs. Stanford wrote from the university:

“It has been my policy to say as little about my financial affairs to the outside world as possible, but I feel sure that I am doing myself and our blessed work injustice by allowing

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the impression among all classes to feel certain there is plenty of money at my command, the future is assured, the battle fought and won. . . . I only ask righteous justice. I ask not for myself, but that I may be able to discharge my duty and loyalty to the one who trusted me, and loved me, and loves me still. I am so poor myself that I can not this year give to any charity; not even do I give this festive season to any of my family. I do not tell you this, kind friend, in a complaining way, for when one has pleasant surroundings, all we want to eat and wear, added to this have those in their lives we can count on as friends, it would be sinful to complain. I repeat it only that you, my friend, may know, I ask only justice to the dear ones gone from earth life and the living one left.

“I am willing you should speak plainly to any one who may question as to the university or myself. I have many devoted and true, loyal friends in Washington, and I am sure, did they know I was kept from my rights, they would speak their sentiments openly, and when it was known a public sentiment was in my

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favor and against their unfairness, it would cause a different course to be pursued toward me. I shall henceforth speak plainly, and I desire you to do so. You will meet our good President, Mr. Cleveland, my good and true friend, Secretary Carlisle, Mr. John Foster and many others, and you . . . can do our blessed work good, and God will bless the act and bring fruit to bear from the seeds sown. I have kept myself and my affairs in the background. It has been an inspiration from the source from which all good comes, from my Father God—I trust Him to lead me all along the rest of the journey of life. He has led me thus far through the deep waters, and joy will come, for He never deserts the widow, the childless, the orphan. I have His promise ‘blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.’ ”

On the same day she said:

“Everything is going on smoothly as far as I know at the university. The boys are wild over the game to be played. I hope they will

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win because my boys will be happy if they win."

On July 20, 1896, she wrote to a candidate for a professorship:

"The university still is restricted and limited in its ambitions and its aims, because of my inability to increase the number of students or the number of professors. The gift of \$2,500,000 in bonds which I have by the grace of God been enabled to give to the trustees for the present and future maintenance of the university brings in a monthly income of \$10,000, while the actual expenses for the faculty and the president and the necessary matters bring the sum total of expenses per month to \$19,000. This \$9,000 I am obliged to furnish myself through the strictest economy and the husbanding of resources; consequently I am not increasing expenses but on the contrary shall retrench in the future."

On December 28, 1895, she said:

"I must confess to a feeling of great pride

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in our entire body of students, both male and female, and I think we are all in a way under obligations to them for their uniformly good conduct, and a desire, as my dear husband once expressed it, to be ladies and gentlemen.”

On July 29, 1895, she wrote:

“I send a precious letter from Mr. Andrew White for you to read. I read it with a heart running over with various emotions. Mr. Stanford esteemed him so highly I could not but feel like asking God to let my loved ones in heaven know the contents of this letter. I prize this letter beyond my ability to express. It lifted my soul from its heaviness. My heart is one unceasing prayer to the Allwise, All Merciful one, that all will be well for the future of the good work under your care. When the end of our troubles is over, all (these letters) will be placed in your hands for future reading by our students, a story for them when I have passed into peace.”

Soon after, she wrote:

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"I return herewith Mr. Choate's kind letter. God bless him, for he was a friend indeed."

Again, on August 15, 1895:

"It gives me great satisfaction to read Professor Stillman's letter. I perceive besides the loyalty to the university, the noble, tender loyalty to my dear husband's memory. . . . I prize him as a professor, for he was the only selection made by Mr. Stanford. He knew him well and judged his character rightly as this act on his part has proved. . . . I always enjoy my home-coming. Even its desolation is sacred to my heart. It holds many dear memories that no one on earth knows but myself."

After the decision of Judge Ross (July 6, 1895), she wrote:

"I dare not let my soul rejoice over the future. It must be more sure than it is now. I hope and pray that the final decision will be as sure as the first. It means more to me than you or the world have dreamed. It means an



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unsullied, untarnished name as a blessed heritage to the university. My husband often used to say: 'A good name is better than riches.' God can not but be touched by my constant pleading, and this first decision by Judge Ross makes me humble that I, so unworthy, should have received the smallest attention."

From Paris, August 30, 1897, she wrote:

"I wish the rest of my responsibilities caused me as little care as does the internal working of the good work. I am only anxious to furnish you the funds to pay the needs required. I could live on bread and water to do this, my part, and would feel that God and my loved ones in the life beyond this smiled on the efforts to ensure the future of my dear husband's work to better humanity."

Again, in 1897, she wrote to her trusted solicitor, Russell Wilson:

"I stand almost alone in this blessed work

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left to my care, and I want and need the president's support and his helpfulness in this work as far as he can support me. There are plenty who are interested in the affairs of the estate with me, but few in the university."

In July, 1898, she said:

"If I am able to keep the university in the condition it is now, I shall be more than thankful. \$15,000 a month is a great expenditure, and exhausts my ingenuity and resources to such an extent that had I not the university so close to my heart I would relieve myself of this enormous burden and take rest and recreation for the next year. But I prefer to see the good work going on in its present condition, and I am not promising myself anything further for the future until the skies are brighter than they are now."

On December 14, 1900, she repeats:

"I could lay down my life for the university. Not for any pride in its perpetuating the

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names of our dear son and ourselves, its founders, but for the sincere hope I cherish in its sending forth to the world grand men and women who will aid in developing the best there is to be found in human nature."

These extracts, largely from business letters, will show better than any words of mine her spirit and her faith. These must justify and give life to the words I used on February 28, 1905, the date on which Mrs. Stanford passed away in Honolulu:

"The sudden death of Mrs. Stanford has come as a great shock to all of us. She has been so brave and strong that we hoped for her return well rested, and that her last look on earth might be on her beloved Palo Alto. But it was a joy to her to have been spared so long; to have lived to see the work of her husband's life and hers firmly and fully established.

"Hers has been a life of the most perfect

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devotion both to her own and her husband's ideals. If in the years we knew her she ever had a selfish feeling, no one ever detected it. All her thoughts were of the university and of the way to make it effective for wisdom and righteousness.

“No one outside of the university can understand the difficulties in her way in the final establishment of the university, and her patient deeds of self-sacrifice can be known only to those who saw them from day to day. Some day the world may understand a part of this. It will then know her for the wisest, as well as the most generous, friend of learning in our time. It will know her as the most loyal and most devoted of wives. What she did was always the best she could do. Wise, devoted, steadfast, prudent, patient and just—every good word we can use was hers by right. The men and women of the university feel the loss not alone of the most generous of helpers, but of the nearest of friends.”

To these words, spoken when the shock of the death of the mother of the university

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first came to her children, I added later a single thought as to Mrs. Stanford's conception of the future development of the university:

“It should be, above all other things, sound and good, using its forces not for mental development alone, but for physical, moral and spiritual growth and strength. It should make not only scholars, but men and women, alert, fearless, wise, God-fearing, skilled in co-operation and eager to do their part, whatever the struggle into which they may be thrown. To this end she would have the university not large but choice. There should be no more students than could be well taken care of, no more departments than could be placed in master hands, no teachers to whom the students could not look up as to men whose work and life should be an inspiration to them. The buildings should be beautiful, for to see beautiful things in a land of beauty is one of the greatest elements in the refinement of clean men and women. Great libraries and great collections the university should have, but libra-

ries and collections should be chosen for their fitness in the training of men. And with all the activities of athletics, of scholarly research, of the applications of science to engineering, the spirit of 'self-devotion and of self-restraint,' by which lives have been 'made beautiful and sweet' through all the centuries, should rise above all else, dominating the lower aspirations and activities as the great church towers above the red tiles of the lower buildings. But for all this, the Church should exist for men—for the actual men who enter its actual doors—not men for the Church. For this reason, any special alliance with any of the historic churches of Christendom is forever forbidden.

"We do not yet see all these things. Rome was not built in a day, nor Stanford in a century. But as the old pioneers returning now behold in solid stone the dream-castles of their college days, so shall you, Stanford men and women, find here as you come back to future reunions the university of your dreams, the university of great libraries and noble teachers, the university of the perfect democracy of

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literature and science, 'of self-devotion and of self-restraint,' the university in which earnest men and women find the best possible preparation for work in life, the university which sends out men who will make the future of the republic worthy of the glories of the past, the university of the plans and hopes of Leland Stanford, the university of the faith and work and prayer of Jane Lathrop Stanford."



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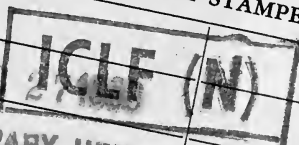
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